

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PN, US

SUBJECT: PERIODIC ACTIVITIES REPORT JULY 14-JULY 28

1. STATUS OF OMB ACTIONS. ON TUESDAY, OMB FORWARDED THE DECISION MEMORANDUM AND IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION TO THE PRESIDENT. THE MEMO REPORTEDLY RECOMMENDS ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTER-AGENCY GROUP TO COORDINATE WASHINGTON-GUIDANCE, FAVORS SELECTION OF 5 AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES AS BOARD MEMBERS, SUPPORTS THE DOD-STATE COMPROMISE ON THE ROLE OF THE AMBASSADOR, AND PROPOSES THAT A CIVILIAN BE APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR. WE ANTICIPATE A DECISION NEXT WEEK.

2. FOREIGN POLICY COMMUNIQUE. WIRE SERVICE REPORTS ON THE COMMUNIQUE FEATURING PANAMA'S POSITIONS ON GUANTANAMO, THE EMBARGO AND FREE DETERMINATION FOR PUERTO RICO BROUGHT A FLURRY OF CALLS FROM THE HILL, PARTICULARLY FROM THE STAFFS

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OF TREATY OPPONENTS. WHEN GIVEN THE FULL DETAILS OF THE COMMUNIQUE, INTEREST WANED. ARA/PAN DID A SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF THE COMMUNIQUE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE (COPY POUCHE) CONCLUDING THAT IN TONE AND SUBSTANCE THE COMMUNIQUE PUTS PANAMA LESS AT ODDS WITH THE U.S. THAN IN THE PAST. IT SERVED AS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT WHAT PANAMA DOES IS CLOSELY WATCHED IN WASHINGTON. A SIMILAR

FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT BY MOST OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WOULD PROBABLY HAVE GONE UNNOTICED HERE.

3. DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY. SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WILL BEGIN MARK-UP ON THE DOT BILL AUG. 1 OR 2. DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER SENT LETTERS TO BAYH AND MAGNUSON URGING THEM TO SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE DARIEN HIGHWAY. BAYH HAS DRAFTED A MEMO RECOMMENDING THAT THE \$20 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL BE PUT BACK IN THE BILL, BUT FIRST WANTS ASSURANCES FROM THE SENATE LEADERSHIP AND HOUSE CONFEREES OF THEIR SUPPORT. IT STILL APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT CONGRESS WILL ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR FURTHER CONSTRUCTION.

4. FAA. DEPT. WILL CHAIR MEETING WITH DOT AND DOD ON THURSDAY TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT FAA AGREEMENT IN LIGHT OF USSOUTHCOM COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM EMBASSY.

5. CERRO COLORADO. A CONTACT AT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY CONFIRMED THAT THE REPORTED ONE BILLION DOLLAR LOAN FROM THE CANADIAN EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORP., WHILE STILL TENTATIVE, APPEARS TO BE A SERIOUS PROPOSITION. THE EDC ANNOUNCED THE PROPOSED DEAL IN CANADA, WHERE IT HAS AROUSED SOME PUBLIC CRITICISM, MAINLY FROM CANADIAN MINING INTERESTS. HE HAD HEARD THE TERMS WERE ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BILLION DOLLARS FOR THE PURCHASE OF CANADIAN MINING EQUIPMENT REPAYABLE, AT LEAST IN PART, FROM THE MINE'S PRODUCTION RATHER THAN DIRECTLY GUARANTEED BY THE GOP.

6. WEEKLY ISSUES PAPER. ARA/PAN IS PROPOSING A WEEKLY ISSUES ITEM ON PANAMA'S POLITICAL FUTURE BASED ON RECENT REPORTING FROM THE EMBASSY (COPY POUCHED).

7. WORKING GROUP MEETINGS. HENCEFORTH, WE WILL BE POUCHING TO EMBASSY MINUTES OF THE WEEKLY PANAMA WORKING GROUP MEETINGS CHAIRED BY AMBASSADOR POPPER. HIGHLIGHTS WILL BE CABLED AS NECESSARY.

8. HANSEN AMENDMENT. TODAY THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MILITARY PROCUREMENT BILL ADOPTED LANGUAGE WHICH DOES NOT INHIBIT DOD'S ABILITY TO FULFILL ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS. ALSO, DOD HAS SUBMITTED A \$44 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL TO OMB FOR BASE RELOCATIONS. THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE AUTHORIZATION BILL COMPOSED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF SUPPORTERS IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WEDNESDAY AUG. 3. WE EXPECT HANSEN'S AMENDMENT WILL BE WATERED

DOWN AND HAVE DRAFTED ALTERNATE LANGUAGE AND TALKING POINTS. WE CAN EXPECT SUCH AMENDMENTS ON STATE OR DOD LEGISLATION IN THE COMING MONTHS.

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